

Annual Report.

1898,

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

WATERLOO-WITH-SEAFORTH.

GENTLEMEN,

The following, being my twenty-fifth Annual Report as to the Health and Sanitary state of the district, together with a Report of the Sanitary Inspector, I have much pleasure in submitting to you, and I think it will compare most favourably with those in past years.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

During the year there have been notified to me in the Waterloo Division of the District 93 cases of this class of Disease, occurring in 75 houses, 70 of these were treated in their own homes, of which 9 died, the remainder, 23, were removed to hospital, and of these 3 proved fatal.

In the Seaforth Division 121 cases were notified, occurring in 91 houses, 63 remained at home for treatment, of which 3 died ; 58 being removed to the hospital, of which 5 died.

Total, 214 cases in 166 houses, 81 of which were removed to hospital.

The following are the numbers of cases notified for the last six years.

1893	...	...	...	295.
1894	...	...	...	283.
1895	...	...	...	281.
1896	...	...	...	200.
1897	...	...	...	151.
1898	...	...	...	214.

It will be seen from this that the number of cases is higher this year than the two preceding years, yet it is considerably below the average of the past five years, the average being 242.

This, I think, is due to the number of mild cases of Scarlet Fever. Many of these were not seen by the Medical men who notified them until desquamation had commenced, when no doubt others had contracted the disease from them. In one case a child was found desquamating amongst its class-fellows at school by the School Mistress, who sent her home and promptly notified the case to me.

HOSPITAL ACCOUNT.

The expenditure connected with the reception of patients into the Bootle Corporation Hospital was as follows :—

Annual contribution for maintenance of Hospital	£384	0	0
Cost of maintenance of patients	415	17	0
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Total...	£799	17	0
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SCARLET FEVER.

64 cases of this disease occurred in 46 houses in the Waterloo Division, 43 of which were treated at home, none of which died ; 21 were removed to hospital, 2 of which died.

There were 68 cases in 44 houses in the Seaforth Division, 35 were treated at home, 1 of which died ; 33 were removed to hospital, where 1 also died.

The total for the entire District was 132 cases in 90 houses. 54 were removed to hospital.

Number of cases notified for last six years :—

1893	...	...	...	137.
1894	...	...	...	157.
1895	...	...	...	162.
1896	...	...	...	98.
1897	...	...	...	73.
1898	...	...	...	132.

The average for the preceding 5 years is 125.

I may state that the cases of this disease notified this year were not confined to any one locality, but were scattered pretty equally throughout the District. They were of a mild type, consequently difficult of detection in the early stage, which, as I said before, will account for the increase in the number. There was but one death of those treated at home in the entire District.

TYPHOID FEVER:

In the Waterloo Division 13 cases of this disease were notified from the same number of houses, 11 were treated at home, none of which died; 2 were removed to hospital, 1 of which proved fatal.

In Seaforth Division there were 42 cases in 36 houses, 17 were retained at home for treatment, with the result that 2 died; 25 were removed to hospital, where 4 deaths occurred.

Total number for entire District 55, occurring in 49 houses, 27 of which were removed to hospital.

Number notified for the last six years :—

1893	...	...	..	69.
1894	...	..	...	92.
1895	...	..	...	69.
1896	...	...	...	63.
1897	...	...	...	38.
1898	...	...	...	55.

Average for five years preceding this 66.

I think it is very probable that a considerable proportion of these cases arose from infection received outside this District, from the fact, that in several instances those that were attacked had not been residing here for a week or more previously, and in other cases the victims spent most of their time during the day in Liverpool, and had their meals there. Very few were persons who spent most of their time at work in the District, and took their meals at home.

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANEOUS CROUP.

7 cases of Diphtheria were notified in Waterloo Division, and of these 3 died. In Seaforth Division there were 6 cases, none of which proved fatal.

To Membraneous Croup was attributed 1 case in Waterloo, which died, and 1 in Seaforth, which recovered.

Total—15 cases, 4 of which died.

ERYSIPELAS.

In Waterloo Division 6 cases were notified. 2 of which terminated fatally. In Seaforth Division there were 4 cases but no deaths.

PUERPURAL FEVER.

2 cases of this disease occurred in Waterloo Division, both of which died.

DISINFECTING STOVE.

In my last year's Report I mentioned the fact that the Local Government Board had granted a loan for the purpose of providing a new steam disinfector in place of the hot air apparatus in use for some years past. I have now much pleasure in stating that an excellent stove has been erected (Washington Lyon Pattern) by the contractors, Messrs. Manlove Alliott & Co., together with the necessary buildings for vans, &c.. from plans by your able Surveyor, which is giving complete satisfaction.

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

Systematic Inspections throughout the entire District were made by me in company with the Sanitary Inspector at various periods, every part being visited once or twice during the year. The Sanitary Inspector has continued his house-to-house inspection, and we have visited many places where nuisances were reported to exist, so that notices could be served for their abatement. The work arising from these inspections is shewn in a Report furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, which I have appended to this, where also will be found all information relating to Dairies, Milk houses and Bake-houses.

SANITARY STATE OF THE DISTRICT AT END OF THE YEAR.

During the last quarter of the year there was a considerable falling off in the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified, and the District could hardly be in a better sanitary condition. This state of things will, I have reason to hope, tend to make the number of Zymotic cases less in the coming year.

VITAL STATISTICS.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

Under this class of disease there were registered in the entire District 48 deaths, giving a death rate of 2·08. In the Waterloo Division 13 of these deaths occurred, making a death rate of 1·29. In the Seaforth Division the number was 35, which shews a death rate of 2·69.

During 1897, 41 deaths from this class of disease were returned, or a death rate of 1·87 per 1000 per annum.

Causes of deaths of the Zymotic class :—

	Under 5 Years.	5 Years and Upwards.
Scarlet Fever	1	0
Diphtheria	0	3
Membraneous Croup	0	1
Typhoid Fever	1	2
Puerperal Fever	0	2
Erysipelas	0	2
Measles	2	1
Whooping Cough	2	0
Diarrhoea and Dysentery ...	30	1
Total... ..	<u>36</u>	<u>12</u>

The increase in the Zymotic Death Rate this year will be seen to arise from the number of deaths attributed to Diarrhoea and Dysentery amongst children of tender years. This is caused mostly by improper food and dirty vessels, such as bottles, &c., from which infants are fed. I would suggest that a card with directions as to the feeding of infants be distributed in the poorer parts of the District where the bulk of these cases have occurred, which plan has been adopted in other Districts with success.

BIRTH RATE.

The number of births registered in the District were 603—321 males and 282 females, giving a birth rate of 26·15. Of these, 228 were in Waterloo Division, males 117, and females 111, the birth rate being 22·71; and in Seaforth Division 375, males 204, females 171, a birth rate of 28·80.

In 1897 the total births were 548—males 279, and females 269—a birth rate of 25·10.

DEATH RATE.

The deaths registered during the year numbered 285, giving a total rate of mortality for the entire district of 12·36 per 1000 of the estimated population. Of these 107 were in Waterloo Division, giving a death rate of 10·66, and 178 in Seaforth Division, a death rate of 13·67,

In 1897 the deaths were 270—a death rate of 12·37.

MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	96
„ 5 years	...	...	...	...	29
„ 15 „	...	...	...	...	14
„ 25 „	...	...	...	...	15
„ 65 „	...	...	...	...	82
Over 65 „	...	...	...	...	49
Total ...					<u>285</u>

Table of Deaths from all causes, classified according
to Diseases and ages.

					Under 5 years.	5 years and upwards.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	1	0
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	0	3
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	0	1
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	1	2
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	0	2
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	0	2
Measles	...	...	...	...	2	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	2	0
Diarrhoea and Dysentery	...	...	...	...	30	1
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	1	25
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	23	24
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	1	16
Injuries	...	...	...	...	0	8
All other diseases	...	...	...	...	64	75
Total	...	...	...	...	<u>125</u>	<u>160</u>

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. S. LIMRICK,

Medical Officer of Health

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
WATERLOO-WITH-SEAFORTH.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Statement as to the Sanitary Inspections made by me during the past year, together with particulars of nuisances abated and improvements effected in consequence of such inspections.

ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

In all 975 houses have been inspected, these including houses from which complaints of nuisances had been received, and in which infectious disease had occurred, the larger portion of these inspections, however, being made in pursuance of Section 92 of the Public Health Act, 1875, which renders systematic inspection compulsory; a house-to-house visitation being made in 24 streets.

NOTICES SERVED AND RESULTS.

In consequence of these inspections 429 preliminary notices were served, most of which were promptly attended to. In 73 instances nuisances were reported to the Committee, and legal notices ordered to be served. As will be seen from the appended summary, a large number of nuisances have been dealt with, and several important sanitary improvements carried out. Visits were made from time to time whilst the various works were in progress—the number of reinspections being 1086.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

In only one instance was it necessary to have recourse to legal proceedings, and in this case the owner, who had been summoned to abate a nuisance arising from defective surface drainage and W. C. connections, at once put the work in hand and paid the costs of the summons prior to the hearing of the case.

SMOKE TESTING.

The Smoke-test has been applied to 179 drains, as compared with 89 in 1897. This marked increase is due in part to a larger number of prospective occupiers of houses who desired to ascertain the sanitary state of the premises they were entering, and also to a special experimental test on the Caradoc Park estate. The results of this last named test conclusively demonstrated the opinion expressed in previous reports as to the condition of the drains in this locality. The drains of houses in which Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever had occurred were also tested at the cost of the Council, the apparatus being again of great service.

CONVERSION OF PRIVIES INTO W.C's.

The conversion of Privies into W.C's has been continued, 44 of such conversions having been carried out, and very few of these receptacles are now to be met with. In 6 instances it was found necessary to serve notices under section 36 of the Public Health Act, 1875, and in one of these cases the conversion was carried out by the Council in default.

INTERNAL SOIL PIPES AND W.C's.

In several of the older houses in the District, Water Closets and Soil Pipes are found to exist in the centre of the premises. Several of these have been dealt with during the past year, the whole of the drainage being removed from under the houses. New and improved W.C's were fixed on external walls which now discharge their contents into soil pipes situate outside the building.

DISCONNECTION OF DRAINS FROM SEWER.

Where the application of the smoke test to the drains of houses in which Typhoid Fever and Diphtheria had occurred has shewn the drains to be in a defective state, and directly connected with the sewer, intercepting traps have been fixed, the heads of the respective drains being ventilated with 4 inch shafts where no soil pipes existed. These shafts were first painted inside as experience has shewn that a large proportion of such cast iron shafts are absolutely useless owing to the rust scaling off and settling in the bend leading to the drain.

PAVING OF YARDS.

A special inspection was made of the cottage property leading off the East side of Seaforth Road, and in most instances the yard paving was found to be more or less defective. Notices were there-

fore served on the respective owners, and a large number of yards have since been repaved, the number of yards so treated being 132, as compared with 32 in 1897. The surface drainage in the yards on the Caradoc Park estate has also received attention, but a considerable number still remain to be dealt with.

BAKEHOUSES.

The Bakehouses in the District have been regularly visited during the year, and a verbal intimation has sufficed in every instance to secure the requisite limewashing. There are now 27 bakehouses on the books, and these are kept in accordance with the provisions of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1883.

SHIPPONS AND DAIRIES.

Eight applications to be registered as Cowkeepers or Purveyors of Milk have been granted. In two instances new shippons were registered, but not until the whole of the requirements of the Local Government Board Orders as to lighting, ventilation, drainage, and paving had been satisfactorily complied with. There are now 36 Cowkeepers or Purveyors of Milk on the register. Notices have been served on the owners of some of the older shippons to provide an impervious paving to the floor of the building, and some considerable improvements have been effected in this respect. The great majority of the occupiers appear anxious to keep their premises in as cleanly and sanitary state as possible.

UN SOUND FOOD.

The provisions of section 116 of the Public Health Act, 1875, have been put into force on two occasions. Seizures of a basket of mushrooms and a quantity of potted meat being made. In each instance the articles were condemned by a Magistrate and ordered to be destroyed. The respective shopkeepers were warned by the Committee that any further seizures would be followed by prosecutions.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

In accordance with the instructions of the Medical Officer of Health, investigations have been made into each of the 214 cases of infectious disease notified to him during the year. At the close of the cases, whether by removal, recovery, or death, the bedding and clothing has been removed for steam disinfection; the infected rooms have been fumigated, and the walls subsequently scraped and washed down with a strong solution of carbolic acid and water.

NIGHT-SOIL CONTRACT.

The ashpits in the District have been systematically emptied and disinfected by the Contractor every three months in addition to attention being given to special applications. The number of such emptyings has been 13,571. Thirty-three new galvanised iron ashbins have been substituted in lieu of ashpits, making in all 106 ashbins. These receptacles are emptied at intervals not exceeding one week, and are becoming increasingly popular.

SUMMARY OF WORK OF DEPARTMENT.

Number of houses inspected	985
Number of houses re-inspected	1086
Number of visits to Bakehouses	62
Number of visits to Shippons and Dairies	86
Smoke-test applied to drainage	179 times,
Number of Smoke observations taken	4
Number of preliminary notices served	429
Number of legal notices served	73
Number of houses in connection with notices	675
Number of seizures of unsound food	2
Cases of infectious disease reported on	214
Disinfecting apparatus used	169 times.
Bedding, clothing, &c. stoved	1916 pieces
Rooms fumigated	188
Paper scraped off walls of rooms	179

DETAILS OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED DURING THE YEAR.

PRIVIES, MIDDENS, AND WATER CLOSETS.

Privies converted into water closets	44
Middens filled up to level of yards and made into dry ashpits	26
Galvanised ashbins substituted for middens or ashpits	33
Pan closets removed and wash-down basins substituted	20
W. C. basins and traps substituted for defective ones	15
Separate cisterns for flushing W. C's fixed	18
W.C's supplied with water	16
Defects in flushing apparatus made good	53
Defective connections of W.C's to drains made good	61

SOIL PIPES.

Soil pipes inside houses removed	5
Soil pipes ventilated with 4 inch pipes	62
Joints of soil pipes made gas-tight	17

WASTE PIPES.

Waste pipes and overflow pipes from cisterns disconnected from drain	57
Rain water waste pipes disconnected from soil pipes or drains	93
Untrapped and defective waste pipes trapped and made good	69
Lavatory waste pipes disconnected from bath waste pipes and spout heads fixed	15

DRAINAGE.

Drains choked—obstruction removed ...	...	...	...	43
Drains taken out of cellar ...	...	...	...	26
Drains removed from under living rooms ...	...	...	...	8
Defective drainage opened out and re-laid or repaired ...	...	...	...	33
Heads of drains ventilated with 4 inch shafts ...	...	...	...	11
Intercepting traps fixed ...	...	...	...	28
Gullies fixed in lieu of defective wet or "D" traps ...	...	...	...	100
Additional gullies fixed ...	...	...	...	85

FILTHY OR DELAPIDATED PREMISES.

Filthy houses cleansed and whitewashed ...	...	...	...	4
Filthy dairies and shippens limewashed ...	...	...	...	5
Delapidated buildings repaired ...	...	...	...	29
Defective roofs made watertight ...	...	...	...	6
Defective spouting made good ...	...	...	...	4
Offensive rain water cisterns emptied and filled in or cleansed ...	...	...	...	10

MISCELLANEOUS.

Surfaces of yards repaved ...	...	...	...	132
Nuisances from the improper keeping of animals abated...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous nuisances abated ...	...	...	...	16

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. H. SPEARS,

Sanitary Inspector.

January 30th, 1899.

